

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1 – 12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for, in a drawing system mounted to an optical fiber draw tower, cooling an optical fiber drawn from an optical fiber preform, as said fiber is being drawn~~in drawing systems mounted to an optical fiber draw tower~~ to form an optical fiber, said apparatus comprising:

a main body through which the fiber being drawn passes, said main body extending in the longitudinal drawing direction of the said fiber; and,

~~an upper gas feeding section over said main body, wherein said an upper gas feeding section that includes a first hollow rotary body having, for gas, at least one radial passageway toward said fiber for gas; and, said section further including~~

at least one gas feeding port disposed for supplying, to said fiber~~from one or more respective positions on the upper gas feeding section, a gas feed to the~~ by means of said at least one radial passageway, said apparatus being configured for, during the drawing of said fiber, rotating to rotate said rotary body and being further configured such that said gas feed, in combination with said rotating, carry out the forming of said optical fiber so as to, in said drawing direction, periodically repeat polarization direction in correspondence with a frequency of said rotating to cause non-uniform delivery of the gas to the fiber to create a temperature difference to reduce polarization mode dispersion of the fiber.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said slits i

~~s disposed as to linearly extend~~extends linearly along said drawing direction~~a longitudinal direction of the optical fiber.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said slits ~~are~~are inclined at an angle from ~~a longitudinal~~said drawing direction ~~of the optical fiber.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said ~~slit~~the plural slits spirally extend down toward said main body ~~is formed in a spiral disposed with respect to the optical fiber so as to axially extend in a longitudinal direction of the optical fiber.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said rotary body has a radially inner surface and, ~~at least one slit in said inner surface, a plurality of slits leading down toward said main body along the longitudinal direction of the fiber.~~

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for, in a drawing system mounted to an optical fiber draw tower, cooling an optical fiber preform, as said preform is being drawn from ~~an optical fiber preform in drawing systems mounted to an optical fiber draw tower, to form an optical fiber,~~ said apparatus comprising:

a main body through which said fiber passes, said main body extending in the longitudinal~~itudinal~~ a drawing direction of the~~said~~ fiber;

~~an upper gas feeding section over said main body, said~~an upper gas feeding section

~~including~~that includes a first-hollow rotary bodyring having, for gas, a plurality of radial passageways toward said fiber,~~for gas and further includes said section further including a plurality of gas feeding ports located at respective positions axially around the upper gas feeding section;~~disposed for supplying, to said fiber, a gas feed by means of the plural radial passageways;

~~on/off~~ switches respectively connected to the plural gas feeding ports and actuatable for selectively allowing or restricting gas flow; and

a controlling computer configured to sequentially actuate said switches in a circumferential direction of said ring to correspondingly rotate said supplying of said gas feed; and

~~a gas feeder for supplying, by means of the plural ports, a gas feed to the plural passageways, said apparatus being configured to operate the switches so as to rotate said gas feed to cause non-uniform delivery of the gas to the fiber to create a temperature difference to reduce polarization mode dispersion of the fiber.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said ~~rotary bodyring~~ has a radially inner surface and ~~at least one~~ a plurality of slits in said inner surface ~~along the longitudinal direction of the fiber.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said slits ~~are~~ are inclined at an angle from said drawing direction~~the longitudinal direction of the optical~~

1 fiber.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein ~~said slit~~the plural slits spirally extend down toward said main body~~is formed in a spiral disposed with respect to the optical fiber so as to axially extend in a longitudinal direction of the optical fiber.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein ~~asaid~~slits of said at least one slit respectively forms part of a passageway of corresponding parts of the plural radial passageways.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 18, configured such that the sequential actuating of said switches occurs during the drawing of said preform~~being drawnoperating of the switches involves turning the switches on and off periodically.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said computer is~~further~~ configured to perform the sequential actuating to, in said drawing direction, periodically repeat polarization direction in carrying out the forming of said fiber, the periodic repetition being in correspondence with a frequency of the rotating of said supplying~~such that the operating of the switches involves turning the switches on and off sequentially so as to create the rotation of said gas feed.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein asaid slits respectively forms corresponding parts of the plural~~said~~ radial passageways.

26.-27. (Canceled)